



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1972



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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR F. JAMES

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN - COUNCILLOR P.W. MASON

MEMBERS - COUNCILLOR D. CHILDS
COUNCILLOR A.A. CLAY
COUNCILLOR S.W. INGHAM
COUNCILLOR J.M. MACDONELL
COUNCILLOR S. TURNER

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. P. LAVIS, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Borough of Buckingham, the Urban Districts of Bletchley and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow; Area Medical Officer for North Bucks. and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks. Division and the Buckingham and Winslow Districts.)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. SUSAN HETHERINGTON, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & HOUSING MANAGER

S.R. BAYLIS, M.A.P.H.I., Meat and Food Inspector,
Cert. S.I.B., National Cert. Building.

Council Offices,
Lovat Bank,
Silver Street,
NEWPORT PAGNELL.

May 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this, the penultimate annual report, to the Council. It contains some basic facts and figures required by statute to indicate the health of the community, with a commentary to suggest some of the areas where problems occur and improvements are necessary. The figures themselves suggest nothing startling, and the general health is well up to national standards. The figures which we have to record are not good indicators of the true level of health in the community; we do not have an accurate measurement of conditions which cause a great deal of poor health (for example - arthritis and bronchitis). I hope that when the health service is re-organised one of the benefits to be obtained will be more accurate and useful epidemiology.

Communicable Diseases: The number of infectious diseases notified is now very small and the majority that do occur are not serious. During the weeks prior to Christmas an influenza epidemic was building up, and this started to decline during the second week of January. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning, though undoubtedly isolated incidents. I believe that the absence of serious trouble in this sphere is due, in large measure, to the continued vigilance of the Health Inspector in his regular visits to food premises.

Family Planning:

My plea in last year's annual report for family planning to become part of the National Health Service is now bearing fruit, and in the coming year it is anticipated that a comprehensive service will be offered by the County Council. I hope to be able to expand the existing services in due course as there are continual requests for this.

Health Education:

The growing interest in this subject shown by Schools continues to demand more help from the Health Education section and during 1972 it took part in the planning and presentation of courses in addition to supplying information and visual aid material to a number of Secondary Junior Schools. There is also a growing need for material to be demonstrated to interested Teachers and in July 1972 the section was asked to contribute visual aids for a course held in North Bucks.

Youth Clubs have also asked for help with organising evening discussion groups on health topics and in co-operation with youth leaders and the Social Services Department sessions have been held at Youth Centres. The problems of obesity have been tackled by visits to a variety of clubs, Women's Institutes, Mothers' Clubs etc.

The Future:

So much work nowadays does not provide satisfaction; staff cannot therefore function at an optimum level and the quality of work is not high. Despite some frustrations, the philosophy of the health department has been, in the recent past at least, to work with the public and to ensure that everyone is satisfied that everything that needs to be done, or can be done, has been done properly. We have always tried to avoid the impression that we are 'watch-dogs' anxious to pounce whenever someone slips up. A superior service is provided when we look upon our task as advisors and educators. The 'inspection' part of the job is done with this in mind and not with a 'snoopers' attitude. Recourse to the weight of law is rare and this is a measure of success in this type of approach to achieve co-operation. While many commercial organisations require some of their key individuals to adopt an aggressive attitude, it is a characteristic that should be required rarely in public health work. The job nevertheless demands a personality strong enough to cope with aggressive attitudes from others, and in sympathy with those with difficult problems.

In the personal health field the position looks far from satisfactory. Two points especially are worth serious consideration. While we will not know the definition of the health district until autumn or winter, there is a distinct possibility that this will be based on Aylesbury to cover North and Mid Bucks. In other words, the "smallest population for which comprehensive health care can be planned, organised and provided" might include places as far apart as Long Crendon and Edlesborough in the South to Lavendon and Turweston in the North. This, despite the fact that planning arrangements followed for the past few years in the north have been similar to the proposals in the new N.H.S. Bill. Unless a district is formed corresponding roughly to the No. 1 Local Government district, the expertise, experience and forward planning already used and carried out by many people from diverse disciplines will be dissipated. This is of significance in relation to the plans for the Milton Keynes health service.

The other point is a repetition of a case I made in last year's report for adequate consumer representation. The proposed Community Health Councils will require vigorous members if they are to have any effect at all. As the Area health authority is not an elected body, and half the council will be members of this body, consumer influence will be minimal.

In common with other local authorities and some health service staff, a great deal of extra time and thought is being devoted to re-organisation of the health services. In the environmental health field the new district No. 1. has made substantial progress in forming recommendations that should enable the public to get a satisfactory service, reasonably accessible, in a framework that should be readily understandable. Although many important matters have yet to be discussed and decided, the morale of the staff has been maintained and they are optimistic in the hope that they will be able to provide a first-class service with the support of the new members.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. LAVIS.

Medical Officer of Health

Newport Pagnell Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1972

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Area (in acres)	3,432	3,432
Number of inhabited houses	2,455	2,269
Population	6,660	6,360
Rateable Value	£349,998	£327,559
Rate per Pound	99p	79½p
Product of 1p rate (estimated)	3,639	3,363

VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

Legitimate Males.	62	73
Females	65	59
Illegitimate Males	3	4
Females.	3	1
Stillbirths.. .. .	2	1
Birth rate per 1,000 pop.(adjusted).. .. .	18.0	22.1
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (England & Wales)	14.8	16.0

Deaths:

Males.	52	52
Females	56	51
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (adjusted).	9.6	8.9
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (England & Wales).. .. .	12.1	11.6
Infant Mortality (Deaths under one year per 1,000 births) (2 deaths)	15	8 (1 death)
Infant Mortality (England and Wales).	17.0	18.0

Infectious Diseases Notified:

Whooping Cough	-	1
Measles.. .. .	-	21
Infective Jaundice	1	-
Dysentery.	2	-
Acute Meningitis (Meningococcus).	1	-

Principal Causes of Death:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	4	7
Other Diseases of Blood etc.	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	13	10	23
Other forms of Heart Disease	4	5	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	6	7	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	3	3
Pneumonia	10	16	26
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
All other Accidents	2	-	2
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	1	-	1
<hr/>			
TOTAL :	52	56	108
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PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Area Health Office: 224, Queensway, Bletchley (Tel. Blet.4701)

Amulance Service: Administered by the Bucks. County Council, main North Bucks. Station at Bletchley, with a sub-station at Newport Pagnell.

Hospitals: Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, General Hospitals at Bedford, Northampton and Aylesbury.
Outpatient facilities available at Wolverton and Bletchley.
Newport Pagnell - Westbury (Maternity)
& Renny Lodge (Geriatric)

Health Visitors, District Nurses, Midwives: Based at Ousebank,
Work with the General Practitioners.

Child Health Clinic: Congregational School Room, High Street, Newport Pagnell on first and third Wednesdays in each month at 2 p.m.

School Health Service: Administered from the Area Health Office. This includes arrangements for examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act 1944, ascertainment of handicapped pupils and arranging appropriate treatment.
The child guidance and dental clinics under this service are situated at Whalley Drive, Bletchley.
Vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Rubella, Tetanus, Polio and Tuberculosis is undertaken.

Health Education: Organisor - Mr. T. Watson at the Area Health Office.

Contraception Advice: Weekly Clinics held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic, Water Eaton Health Centre, Bletchley and Meachon Clinics, Wolverton by the Family Planning Association.
By appointment (Tel. Bletchley 2285)

Cervical Cytology: By private Dr. or for appointment at Local Authority Clinics (Telephone Bletchley 4701)

Marriage Guidance Council: Interviews held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic for appointment (Tel. Blet.4500)

Occupational Therapy Unit: Area Therapist - Mrs. Osborne at 226 Queensway (Telephone Bletchley 2073)

Social Services Department: Maybrook House, 224, Queensway, Bletchley, Area Social Worker - Mr. P. K. Smith (Telephone Bletchley 4701)

REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR
1972

Introduction and General Remarks

With Local Government Re-organisation an absolute certainty in April 1974 this was probably the year when Local Government in Newport Pagnell and the Town itself were becoming geared to this era of rapid change and its attendant disturbances.

From the Autumn of 1972 onwards common administrative procedures were being adopted by the four authorities that will amalgamate, namely Wolverton Urban District Council, Bletchley Urban District Council and the two Newport Pagnell Councils.

Road-works to straighten the High Street added to traffic congestion already causing increasing concern with its noise, air pollution and general inconvenience, though these matters are at present largely outside the control of this Council.

On the outskirts of the town large housing estates were springing up and in the town centre there has been great commercial activity, many shops being modernised and new businesses started. Local Authority activity has not lagged behind, this Council's Recreation Centre and the County Council's Health Centre being well under way.

The co-operation of the public including those who carry on business in the town has always been valued by the Public Health Inspectors and Central Government has now decided that most of our duties will still be carried out at District Council level which should ensure that this harmonious relationship continues even though the new Milton Keynes District Council will be so much larger than the units we are used to.

S. R. Baylis
Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

(Other than Housing Management)

	<u>1972</u>
Houses erected post war by Local Authority	313
Houses erected by Local Authority during 1972	Nil
Houses erected by private enterprise during 1972	97
Houses demolished or closed (Sec. 17 - Housing Act 1957)	Nil
Houses demolished or closed (Sec. 42 - Housing Act 1957)	Nil
Improvement Grants (Discretionary) since inception of scheme	118
Standard Grants since inception of scheme	137
Improvement Grants (Discretionary) approved during 1972	13
Standard Grants approved during 1972	3
Qualification Certificates issued during 1972	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Inspections:

During the year the following visits were made:

Public Health Inspections (including Meat and Food)	607
Housing Inspections	165
Total visits of all kinds	1,293

Food Surrendered or Condemned:

Carcase Meat & Offal	Nil
Canned Meat & Meat Products	254 lb.
Fish	7 lb.
Frozen Food to the Value of £220.20.	

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

Just over 300 houses remain to be converted to the paper sack system and it is expected that these will be done during 1973.

The Council's Willen Road Tip was closed at the end of March 1972. Satisfactory arrangements were made with the Rural District Council and no difficulties have been encountered in the joint use of their Tip.

To comply with the Civic Amenities Act a clearing has been retained at the entrance of the former Tip where the public can dispose of unwanted household articles.

Rodent Control:

During the year 1,010 visits were made by the Rodent Operator to private property, factories, shops, and Local Authority sewers and property. Closing the Tip has been beneficial in reducing the number of rats in that area.

The Contract Scheme for the monthly inspection of business premises is increasingly well supported, ten firms now taking part.

Flood Relief, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

In my last Annual Report I expected that new arrangements for sewage disposal would be in operation before the capacity of the present Works is exceeded. Preparations are well advanced with a view to work starting on the new pumping station and associated sewers mid way through 1973.

Financial arrangements with Milton Keynes Development Corporation have already been entered into as the sewage will be pumped to the Works that they are at present constructing.

The Development Corporation's large tunnel has been started. The purpose of the tunnel is to convey sewage works effluent from the new Cotton Valley works to Sherington Pits where a large volume of water can be released in a controlled manner into the River Ouse.

Noise and Atmospheric Pollution:

As the District develops it is inevitable that there will be a constant fight to keep noise and air pollution to a minimum. New firms mean new processes, the effect of which cannot always be perfectly anticipated.

Prolonged negotiations have taken place with one industrial concern to keep noise to a minimum but adequate solutions to these problems often embrace planning considerations, the determination of which takes some time.

Supervision and Inspection of Food:

Regular visits and inspections are essential to maintain standards and are in fact welcomed by traders.

The co-operation of the public is also invaluable. Most complainants are quite rightly more concerned with having decent premises and standards, than in trying to get firms into trouble.

Delivery Vehicles and Stalls:

The general expectation of the public they are serving is forcing street traders into higher standards quite apart from the legal enactments.

Ice Cream:

15 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Bedford.

The public may be surprised that particular reference is made to the sampling of ice cream above other foods. The consequences of contaminated ice cream would be very serious and these samples are a reminder to traders of their very grave responsibilities.

Milk Supply:

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole County excluding the Boroughs of High Wycombe and Slough. As such the programme of sampling of all food and drink including milk is related to the County as a whole and not to any specific area. 171 samples were taken from the area supplying Newport Pagnell, analysis revealed a completely satisfactory standard.

There are seven registered distributors of milk and two registered dairy premises (other than farms) in the District. One of the milk distributors retails only "Long Life" milk, a new development in the dairy industry. This milk has a long shelf life at ordinary temperatures.

No case of brucella abortus has been reported and no samples of raw milk have been taken by U.D.C. Officers.

Water Supply:

The water supply is wholly provided by the Bucks. Water Board and comes to Newport Pagnell from Grafham (via Ampthill). The Ash Hill source was not used during 1972.

Quantity and quality during 1972 were satisfactory. No contamination of the supply was detected.

All the dwellings in the town (estimated 2,382 with an estimated population of 7,000) were supplied with mains water. As far as is known, all except two houses have an internal supply.

No fluoridation of water supplies is undertaken by the Board, the natural fluoride content is approximately 0.54 parts per million.

Chemical and bacteriological samples are regularly taken by the Water Board.

An additional check on bacteriological purity is by samples taken by the Public Health Inspector which are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service. All 13 samples taken were satisfactory.

Food Premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The following information is required to be included in the Report by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Premises	Total
Bakers & Cake Shops	3
Butchers	5
Confectioners	5
Distributors of Milk	7
Office & Factory Canteens	6
Fish Shops (Wet & Fried) & Take-away Food Premises	3
Food Factories	1
Greengrocers	4
Grocers	13
Licensed Premises	14
Restaurants & Hotels	7
Sale of Ice Cream	18
TOTAL	86

Suitable personal washing facilities and facilities for the washing of equipment and food were provided at all the premises.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district other than the local trade carried on by one butcher with a Game Licence.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963:

There is considerable administrative work in keeping an accurate record of premises registered under this Act owing to frequent changes. Following a reminder of their obligation to report accidents, employers are complying with the Act in this respect.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year.	Total number of premises registered at the end of year	No. of premises receiving a detailed insp. in 1972
Offices	8	26	4
Retail Shops	2	55	14
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	2	1
Catering Estab. Open to Public and Canteens	-	6	1
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTAL	10	90	21

Total number of visits of all kinds made by the Public Health Inspector to registered premises under the Act = 54.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1961 as required by the
Department of Health & Social Security

Part 1 of the Act

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	<u>Number of</u>	
			Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	6	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	37	7	-	-

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Reme- died (3)	Referred To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	1	-	-	-

Part V111 of the Act

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Three outworkers were notified in the August list required by Section 133. These concerned wearing apparel. There has been no evidence of cases of default in sending lists to this Council. There have been no prosecutions for failure to supply lists. No instances of work in unwholesome premises arose for action under Section 134.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

2, 3 and 4 Bedroomed Accommodation:

During the year 60 applications were received, but the size of the waiting list was reduced by housing 8 applicants. The list was further reduced by applicants who withdrew for a variety of reasons or who did not re-register in March and October.

Applicants are placed in the following categories:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Applicants</u> <u>as at 31.12.72 (1971)</u>	
A	Medical Cases	Nil	1
B	Unsatisfactory Houses	3	3
C	General Newport Pagnell Applicants	47	33
D	Unavoidably left Newport Pagnell	11	8
E	Servicemen & Applicants from away	7	5
F	Engaged couples	11	3
G	Industrial workers	7	5
		<u>86</u>	<u>58</u>

Old Persons Accommodation:

At the end of 1972 the waiting list contained the names of 32 applicants for one bedroomed accommodation (1971 = 37) and there were 36 applicants on the bed-sitter list (1971 = 31).

During the year there were 16 new applicants for one bedroomed accommodation and 24 new applicants for bed-sitter accommodation. Some applications were withdrawn and some applicants did not re-register.

Ten properties were let to persons on the waiting lists.

Sale of Council Houses:

The Council confirmed in principle its willingness to sell to tenants. At the end of the year no sales had been completed but one was in progress.

Annual Number of Re-lets

No Council Houses were built during 1972, although efforts were made to do so. Tenders received were above the Ministry cost yardstick for a small scheme in Priory Street and also too high for the conversion of Hatt House into four flats. Both schemes were abandoned. The Priory Street land has now been laid out for the sale of plots and Hatt House was sold at public auction.

The difficulties of attracting builders to deal with small scale works also delayed the improvement of sixteen bungalows in Tickford Street and the commencement of a Sheltered Housing Scheme on the Dovecote land but both are expected to go ahead early in 1973.

The same difficulties coupled with early Local Government Re-organisation have led the Council to examine the possibility of combining with Wolverton Urban District Council to develop the land still owned at Whitethorns, possibly during 1973.

The chart below shows accommodation re-let in the last five years, to persons on the Waiting List;-

<u>Type of Accom.</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
2 - 4 Bedroomed	10	14	10	12	8
1 Bedroomed	4	6	2	2	7
Bed-sitter	2	5	4	3	3
TOTAL	16	25	16	17	18

Exchanges and Transfers:

In addition to properties re-let to applicants from the waiting lists 5 existing tenants were allowed to transfer to other Council property becoming vacant, which was more suited to their needs.

Exchanges and transfers not only assist the tenants, but help to make the best use of the Council's property.

Location of Accommodation

	Bed-sit Accommodation											
		1 bed. Bungalow	Bed-sit Gr. Fl. Flat	Bed-sit 1st Fl. Flat	1 Bed Gr. Fl. Flat	2 Bed. Gr. Fl. Flat	1 Bed. 1st Fl. Flat	3 Bed. 1st Fl. Flat	3 Bed. 2nd Fl. Flat	2 Bedroomed Houses	3 Bedroomed Houses	4 Bedroomed Houses
Windsor Avenue		6								14	5	
Bury Close		5										
Queens Avenue		6								18	23	
Almond Close	18	1										
Cherry Road	4	2								4	25	4
Annesley Road											32	2
Baldwin Crescent											4	2
Beech Road											4	
Carrington Road											9	
The Grove											20	
Purcell Drive											14	
Whaddon Road											27	
Line Close										4		
Balmoral Court			2		3			3	3			
Buckingham Court			2		3			3	3			
Sandringham Court			2		3			3	3			
Whitethorns											11	
Linford Lane											16	
Deal House			2	2	2		2					
Dover House					3		3					
Hastings House			1	2		1	2					
Hythe House					3		3					
Romney House			2	2	2		2					
Rye House					3		3					
Tickford Street		16									4	
London Road											14	
TOTAL:	22	36	11	6	22	1	15	9	9	40	208	8

GRAND TOTAL: 387 dwellings built and owned by the
Newport Pagnell Urban District Council.

